

DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

Release Date: March 18, 2005 **Contact:** Richard A. Jenkins **Release Number:** CA 10020-01 **Phone:** (916) 735-1500

TWO DISASTER HELP DESK LOCATIONS TO BECOME SBA DISASTER OFFICES

Sacramento, CA. — The U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced today that the Help Desks at the Kenneth Hahn Recreation Center and Hollywood City Hall in Los Angeles will transition to SBA Disaster Offices beginning Monday, March 21. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and SBA officials opened the Help Desks to provide one-stop, face-to-face assistance and disaster information to individuals and businesses who suffered damage as a result of the severe storms of December 27 through January 11.

"At this stage of the recovery process, the emphasis for assistance is on meeting the long-term needs of victims," said Alfred E. Judd, SBA Disaster Area Director. "The transition of these Help Desks to SBA Disaster Offices will better meet the current needs of individuals and businesses impacted by the disaster. Low interest disaster loans from SBA are available to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private, non-profit organizations. Disaster loans from SBA are the primary source of funds for repairing and rebuilding disaster damaged private property," said Judd.

People who have already registered for federal and state assistance with FEMA can still have their questions answered. Operators at FEMA's toll-free number are available to help residents who have questions about their claims or damages. The only way to register with FEMA is to call **800-621-FEMA** (3362). The number for the hearing or speech impaired is **800-462-7585**. Operators are available from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm daily.

After registering for disaster assistance with FEMA, individuals and business owners were able to visit the Help Desks to obtain information about the types of disaster assistance available from FEMA, SBA, the State Department of Social Services and other agencies.

To assist people in filling out their disaster loan applications, the SBA will continue to have loan officers at:

Kenneth Hahn Recreation Center 4100 La Cienega Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90056

Mondays & Tuesdays 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Hollywood City Hall 6501 Fountain Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90028

Fridays, 10:00 am - 6:00 pmSaturdays, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

At these SBA Disaster Offices, SBA representatives will continue to provide individuals and business owners with face-to-face service in answering questions about SBA's loan program, and explaining how an SBA disaster loan can help pay for their disaster losses. Informational materials will also be available on FEMA's Individual and Household Program and on the Hazard Mitigation Program.

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